

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: KEN FREED STORY ENTITLED "US-MIDDLE EAST"

FOR AMB ANDERSON FFROM S/PRS

1. FOLLOWING IS FREED STORY BASED ON BACKGROUNDER WITH
GHORBAL:

2. QUOTE: U.S. MIDDLE EAST BY KENNETH J. FREED
(WASHINGTON-AP)--EGYPT WON'T DEMAND AN IMMEDIATE START OF
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION
ORGANIZATION AS A CONDITION FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF PEACE TALKS
BETWEEN CAIRO AND JERUSALEM, AN EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL SAID
MONDAY.

THE OFFICIAL, WHO COULD NOT BE QUOTED DIRECTLY OR IDENTI-
FIED BY NAME, SAID THE QUESTION OF THE PLO AND THE FATE
OF THE ISRAELI-OCCUPIED WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN
RIVER IS PART OF THE SAME PACKAGE INVOLVING AN ISRAELI-
EGYPTIAN SETTLEMENT.

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BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT PEACE EFFORTS IN THIS AREA COULD FOLLOW THE PATTERN SET AFTER THE 1973 MIDDLE EAST WAR WHEN ISRAEL NEGOTIATED AN INITIAL DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT FIRST, WITH SIMILAR TALKS COMING LATER WITH SYRIA.

THAT WAS REALLY A SINGLE PROCESS, THE OFFICIAL SAID, AND CAN BE REPEATED NOW AS LONG AS ISRAEL DOESN'T TRY TO FREEZE THE ELEMENT INVOLVING THE PLO.

HE WAS REFERRING TO ISRAELI STATEMENTS THAT IT WILL NEVER NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY WITH THE PLO, WHICH JERUSALEM OFFICIALS CALL A MURDEROUS TERRORIST ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR STATE.

THE EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL SAID THE ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE AT RABAT, MOROCCO, LAST WEEK WAS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IN MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT EFFORTS.

HE INDICATED THAT PLO PARTICIPATION WAS A SIGN OF MODERATION BY THE GROUP, WHICH HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY ITS DECISION TO TAKE PART IN A UNITED NATIONS DEBATE ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. END QUOTE

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